

Appl. No. 10/000,247
Amdt. dated June 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for arranging for the transporting freight comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving a request to transport the freight;
 - (b) determining that a carrier is not available to transport the freight;
 - (c) transmitting a request for a third party to transport the freight;
 - (d) determining that the freight can be transported by a third party vehicle of the third party carrier, the third party vehicle associated with a communications device; and
 - (e) assigning the freight to the third party for transportation;
 - (f) reconfiguring a network management facility to redirect at least a portion of third party communications to a carrier dispatch center associated with the carrier; and
 - (g) receiving, at the carrier dispatch center, freight status information transmitted by the communications device and redirected by the network management facility.
2. Canceled.
3. Canceled.
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said third party comprises a vehicle equipped with a mobile communication terminal.
5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said third party comprises a second carrier dispatch center.
- 6-40. Canceled.

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41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said third party comprises an individual equipped with a mobile communication terminal.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30 1, further comprising reconfiguring the network management facility for preventing subsequent communications between said ~~third-party~~ communications device and said carrier dispatch center after the freight has been delivered.

44. (Currently amended) An apparatus for arranging for the transportation of freight, comprising:

a processor for receiving a request to transport freight, for determining that a carrier cannot transport the freight, for generating a request for a third party to transport the freight, and for determining that the third party can transport the freight, and for generating a message assigning the freight to the third party, and for instructing a network management facility to redirect at least a portion of third party communications;

a transceiver for transmitting the request for a third party to transport the freight, for receiving a response from the third party, and for transmitting the message assigning the freight to the third party, and for receiving freight status information from a third party communications device, the freight status information redirected by the network management facility; and

a memory for storing information pertaining to the availability of carrier vehicles to transport the freight.

45-47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method for arranging for the transportation of freight, said method comprising operations of:

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- (a) receiving a request to transport the freight;
- (b) determining that a carrier is not available to transport the freight;
- (c) transmitting a request for a third party to transport the freight;
- (d) determining that the freight can be transported by a third party; and
- (e) assigning the freight to the third party for transportation;
- (f) reconfiguring a network management facility to redirect at least a portion of third party communications to a carrier dispatch center associated with the carrier; and
- (g) receiving, at the carrier dispatch center, freight status information transmitted by the communications device and redirected by the network management facility.

49. (Canceled)

50. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications device comprises a mobile communications terminal, and the network management facility directs communications from the mobile communications terminal to a third party carrier dispatch center prior to reconfiguration of the network management facility.

51. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications device comprises a wireless communication device (WCD) configured to communicate with the network management facility via a wireless communication network.

52. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein reconfiguring the network management facility comprises transmitting at least one message to the network management facility to update a memory within the network management facility to redirect transmissions from the communications device to the carrier dispatch center.

53. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein reconfiguring the network management facility comprises instructing the network management facility to reformat transmissions from the communications device to a format used by the carrier dispatch center.

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54. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein reconfiguring the network management facility comprises enabling communications from the carrier dispatch center to the communications device.

55. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein reconfiguring the network management facility comprises disabling communications between the communications device and a third party carrier dispatch center.

56. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the request for the third party to transport the freight comprises transmitting a request to a third party carrier dispatch center.

57. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the network management facility receives the freight status information from the communications device via a communications link comprising a satellite link.

58. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the network management facility receives the freight status information from the communications device via a communications link comprising a terrestrial communications link.

59. (New) A method for arranging for the transporting freight comprising the steps of:

- (a) transmitting a request for a third party to transport the freight;
- (b) receiving at a first carrier dispatch center, an acceptance message indicating availability of a third party provider having a communications device to transport the freight;
- (c) transmitting an approval message to the third party provider in response to the acceptance message;
- (d) temporarily reconfiguring a communications facility to allow communications between the communications device and the first carrier dispatch center during at least a portion of the period that the third party provider transports the freight.

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60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein transmitting the request for the third party to transport the freight comprises transmitting the request to a second carrier dispatch center, distinct from the first carrier dispatch center, the second carrier dispatch center transmitting the request to at least one device associated with the second carrier dispatch center.

61. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein receiving the acceptance message at the first carrier dispatch center comprises receiving the acceptance message transmitted by a distinct second carrier dispatch center.

62. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein reconfiguring the communications facility comprises reconfiguring a network management facility to redirect communications from the communication device to the first carrier dispatch center instead of a distinct second carrier dispatch center.